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**GLOBALIZATION,**

**LATIN AMERICA and**

**SUMMIT DIPLOMACY**

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## **PRESENTATION**

We are all witnesses to major changes in the world. Let us take the opportunities that the technology and communications revolution offer us and analyze the profound transformations in relationships among the countries of the Americas and, more generally, in the place of this hemisphere in the international system. The depth and magnitude of the changes and the effects on the daily lives of the different peoples of the Americas give rise to an urgent need to investigate more systematically the new international reality.

We need new ideas, analytical frameworks and interpretations of post-cold war international relations, integration processes, foreign policy formulation and international security. Without sound knowledge and conceptual frameworks for improving the quality of life of the peoples of the Americas, we will miss opportunities to increase economic and commercial exchanges and fail to take advantage of new opportunities that arise to increase national and international stability and peace. The responsibility for the development of these conceptual frameworks vests to a significant extent with academics.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas established a significant goal in the search for new parameters of connection and relationship among the countries of the hemisphere. For the purpose of contributing to the goals and trends generated in this process, the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales [Latin American School of Social Sciences], FLACSO-Chile, together with the Latin American and Caribbean Center of Florida International University, LACC-FIU, proposed to undertake a series of activities aimed at systematizing knowledge and policy recommendations in connection with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas, in the context of globalization and the drafting of policies of hemispheric cooperation. Thus, we undertook activities with two major focuses: on the one hand, the organization of a substantive academic debate on international relations and the issues of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit, and, on the other hand, the establishment of a virtual documentation center to access via the Internet analysis and documentation pertaining to the process of Hemispheric Summits.

The book *Globalización, America Latina y la Diplomacia de Cumbres* is an effort that takes up the systematization and some of the conclusions reached in two international conferences held prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas. The first took place at Florida International University in Miami on February 5, 1998. It consisted of an international workshop in which mainly academics from the United States and the northern area of Latin America participated. In this conference, the Chief Minister of Chile, Jose Miguel Insulza, played a major role and also gave a lecture at FIU. The second one was an international seminar "Globalization, Latin America and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas," held in Santiago de Chile on March 30 and 31 and April 1,

1998, in which about fifty academics from different countries of Latin America, the United States and Canada participated. The results of this international seminar are compiled in this book.

This publication is organized into three major sections. In the first one, the impact of globalization on the region is analyzed in relation to the process of Latin American regional agreement. In the second one, the focus is on the planning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas, mainly in relation to the establishment of a hemispheric community. In the third section, the declarations and plans of action pertaining to the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit held in Miami and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit held in Santiago are set forth. Also included is the keynote address by the President of the Republic of Chile, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas.

The set of works organized under the title Globalización, America Latina y la diplomacia de Cumbre begins with the contributions to the international seminar by the Chief Minister of Chile, Jose Miguel Insulza and the former Chief Minister of Peru, Eduardo Ferrero Costa. Also included is the address by the Secretary General of the OAS, Cesar Gaviria,

The results presented here, as well as the activities carried out, show the importance of academic cooperation in the Americas and the creation of networks for the analysis of substantive issues concerning hemispheric policy. Thus, the international conference fundamentally recognized the important work that the Programa de Relaciones Internacionales de America Latina [Latin American Program of International Relations], RIAL, carried out during the 1980s and prompted the Latin American organizers of this conference to proceed with said initiative, for the purpose of systematizing knowledge that will permit greater levels of regional and hemispheric cooperation and more profound systematization of knowledge that will enable training new generations of professionals in the region.

We organizers would like to thank the authors for their contributions included in this book, all those who participated in the debate and discussion in the conferences held and who made it possible to implement this activity of hemispheric international cooperation.

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